

MASSACHUSETTS TOWNS & CITIES SURVEY
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Peabody

NAME: Peabody (Essex County)

SOURCE OF NAME: George Peabody -- philanthropist and
native son

OTHER NAMES: Brooksby Village (part of Salem & Salem Village
which was Danvers); Middle Parish; South Danvers

DATE OF FIRST SETTLEMENT: 1626

INCORPORATION DATE/S: (Town) 1855 (City) 1916

FIRST SETTLED BY: 12 or more English settlers granted
land by towns of Salem & Lynn

OTHER COMMUNITIES

- Added to original settlement (and dates):
None

- Separated from original settlement (and dates):
Salem -- January 28, 1752 -- Middle & Village Parishes became
Town of Danvers; Separated from Danvers -- May 18, 1855 &
became South Danvers

POPULATION (Present): 47,376 (1988 annual listing)
(Highest): 48,080 (When): 1970 census

AREA (in square miles): 16.5

ELEVATIONS (Highest): 265 ft (Where): Ornes Hill
(Lowest): (Where):

MAJOR GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES: 12 hills within the boundaries of the
city of Peabody; 3 rivers: the North runs through the center of
Peabody, now a canal; the Ipswich which is the western boundary
between Peabody & Middleton; the Waters is the northeastern boundary
between Peabody & Danvers. Several brooks -- hence the name Brooksby

PRE-EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT HISTORY: most likely settled by the
Massachusetts tribes

MOST NOTABLE PERIOD & PROMINENCE: late 1800-1860-1865;
leather industry & shoe making

Peabody

OTHER MAJOR ECONOMIC INFLUENCES and/or ACTIVITIES:

PAST: 1629-1670 -- glass industry; early 1800's to 1823 --
Chocolate manufacturing; 1731-1950 -Pottery industry; 1808- 1876 --
woolen & cotton mills; 1822-1900- carriage manufacturing

PRESENT: a variety of businesses; some high-tech

PROMINENT PERSONS (of note beyond the community - state,
national or international): George Peabody 1795-1869 --
philanthropist, after whom town was named; Honorable Daniel
P. King, 1801-1850, U. S. Congressman; Rufus Choate, State Rep. &
State Senator, U.S. Congressman, Attorney General of Mass.,
died in 1859.

HISTORIC PLACES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

The George Peabody House & Museum, Washington St;
The Peabody Historical Society, 35 Washington St. & 43 Fenton St.;
Peabody Institute Library, 82 Main Street -- life-size portrait
of George Peabody & miniature of Queen Victoria, given by the
Queen to George Peabody; Eben D. Sutton Room, built in 1869
and currently preserved as it originally was.

PUBLIC STATUES: Lexington Monument -- Dedicated 1835;
Civil War Monument -- dedicated 1881; John Proctor Memorial --
1902;

ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR NOTES OF INTEREST:

The Felton family was a prominent family; their house still
stands on the ground of Brooksby Farm, a conservation area
open to the public year-round. The feltons have an annual
reunion at the house.

PERSON COMPLETING SURVEY

Name: Patricia Woodman (Or contact: Helena Minton,
(Position): Genealogist & Library Aide Head of Reference)

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